VMAST

Virginia **M**odified **A**chievement **S**tandards **T**est

Test Blueprint

Grade 6 Reading

Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test Based on the 2010 English Standards of Learning

> This test blueprint will be effective with the administration of the 2012-2013 English Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Tests (VMAST).

Grade 6 Reading
Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test

Test Blueprint

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Test Information

Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test Background Information
The Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST) is an online grade level alternate assessment based on modified achievement standards designed for eligible students with disabilities. Students participating in the VMAST are expected to learn the Standards of Learning (SOL) objectives for grade level content; however, they may require additional time and a variety of instructional and assessment supports. The achievement expectations are modified, and rigor is reduced by including supports and simplifications that allow participating students to access and demonstrate knowledge of grade level content.

Test Blueprint
Much like the blueprint for a building, a test blueprint serves as a guide for test construction. The blueprint indicates the content areas that will be addressed by the test and the number of items that will be included by content area and for the test as a whole. The VMAST blueprint is based on the SOL test blueprint but includes 20% fewer items.

Reporting Categories
The Grade 6 Reading VMAST covers the Standards of Learning in the reading strand of the Grade 6 English SOL. In the test blueprint, the SOL are grouped into categories that address related content and skills. These categories are labeled as reporting categories. For example, a reporting category for the Grade 6 Reading VMAST is *Use word analysis strategies and word reference materials*. Each of the SOL in this reporting category addresses skills using word analysis strategies or word reference materials. When the results of the VMAST are reported, the scores will be presented for each reporting category and as a total test score. The VMAST blueprint includes the same reporting categories as the SOL test, but there are 20% fewer items in each reporting category.

Assignment of Standards of Learning to Reporting Categories
In the Grade 6 Reading VMAST, each Standard of Learning is assigned to only one reporting category. For example, SOL 6.5i is assigned to *Demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts.*

Standards of Learning Excluded from Testing
In some content areas, there are SOL that do not lend themselves to assessment within the current format of the VMAST. The SOL not tested are listed as *Excluded from Testing* at the end of the blueprint for each test.

Coverage of Standards of Learning
Due to the large number of SOL in each grade level content area, *every* Standard of Learning will not be assessed on every version (form) of a VMAST. By necessity, to keep the length of a test reasonable, each version will sample from the SOL within a reporting category.

Use of the Curriculum Framework
The English Standards of Learning, amplified by the Curriculum Framework, define the essential understandings, knowledge, and skills that are measured by the VMAST. The Curriculum Framework asks essential questions, identifies essential understandings, defines essential content knowledge, and describes essential skills students need to master.

Reading Selections
All reading material will be appropriate for sixth-grade students in terms of interest, experiences, length and reading level, as determined by the Content Review Committee. Selections will be similar in format to excerpts from trade books, content textbooks, or magazines.

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1

VMAST Grade 6 Reading
Test Blueprint Summary Table

Reporting Category	Grade 6 Reading Standards of Learning	Number of Items
Use word analysis strategies and word reference materials	**6.4 a-e**	**6**
Demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts	**6.5 a-d, f-k**	**14**
Demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction texts	**6.6 a, c-k**	**16**
Excluded from Testing	**6.4f** **6.5e, l** **6.6 b, l**	
Number of Operational Items		**36**
Number of Field Test Items*		**8**
Total Number of Items on Test		**44**

*Field test items are being tried out with students for potential use on subsequent tests and
 will not be used to compute students' scores on the test.

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2

VMAST Grade 6 Reading
Expanded Test Blueprint

Reporting Category: Use word analysis strategies and word reference materials
Number of Items: 6
Standards of Learning:

6.4   The student will read and learn the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases within
           authentic texts.
           a) Identify word origins and derivations.
           b) Use roots, cognates, affixes, synonyms, and antonyms to expand vocabulary.
           c) Use context and sentence structure to determine meanings and differentiate
               among multiple meanings of words.
           d) Identify and analyze figurative language.
           e) Use word-reference materials.

Reporting Category: Demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts
Number of Items: 14
Standards of Learning:

6.5   The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts,
           narrative nonfiction, and poetry.
           a) Identify the elements of narrative structure, including setting, character, plot,
               conflict, and theme.
           b)   Make, confirm, and revise predictions.
           c) Describe how word choice and imagery contribute to the meaning of a text.
           d) Describe cause and effect relationships and their impact on plot.
           f) Use information in the text to draw conclusions and make inferences.
           g) Explain how character and plot development are used in a selection to support a
               central conflict or story line.
           h) Identify the main idea.
           i) Identify and summarize supporting details.
           j) Identify and analyze the author's use of figurative language.
           k) Identify transitional words and phrases that signal an author's organizational
               pattern.

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3

Reporting Category: Demonstrate comprehension of nonfiction texts
Number of Items: 16
Standards of Learning:

6.6   The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of nonfiction texts.

      a) Use text structures such as type, headings, and graphics to predict and categorize information in both print and digital texts.
      c) Identify questions to be answered.
      d) Make, confirm, or revise predictions.
      e) Draw conclusions and make inferences based on explicit and implied information.
      f) Differentiate between fact and opinion.
      g) Identify main idea.
      h) Summarize supporting details.
      i) Compare and contrast information about one topic, which may be contained in different selections.
      j) Identify the author's organizational pattern.
      k) Identify cause and effect relationships.

Standards of Learning Excluded from Testing:

6.4   The student will read and learn the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases within authentic texts.

      f) Extend general and specialized vocabulary through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

6.5   The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts, narrative nonfiction, and poetry.

      e) Use prior and background knowledge as context for new learning.
      l) Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process.

6.6   The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of nonfiction texts.

      b) Use prior knowledge and build additional background knowledge as context for new learning.
      l) Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process.

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4